

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-07 FEA-01 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-15 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 NRC-07

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FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

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PASS STATE FOR PROCHNIK; ERDA FOR SIEVERING, VANDERRYN,
CUNNINGHAM

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, OECD

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM FOR CONDITIONING OF
HIGH-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE

1. CONTACTS WITH INFORMED NEA PERSONNEL INDICATE THAT
DECISION BY EUROCHEMIC TO SELECT THE LOTES AND PAMELLA
PROCESSES FOR SOLIDIFYING ALL HIGH-LEVEL WASTE WAS
BASED PRINCIPALLY UPON TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS. THE
ERDA PROPOSAL RELATING TO THE SIZE OF THE OVERALL U.S.
CONTRIBUTION AS WELL AS THE REQUIREMENT FOR ANNUAL RE-
EVALUATION OF U.S. COMMITMENT WAS NOT DECISIVE.

2. THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL TO UTILIZE THE U.S.
FLUIDIZED BED CALCINATION PROCESS WAS PUT FORTH BY A
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE IN 1975. THE SELECTION WAS BASED
UPON AN EVALUATION OF THE COMPARATIVE LEVEL OF DEVELOP-
MENT OF THE U.S. FLUIDIZED BED AND THE EUROCHEMIC
STIRRED BED CALCINATION PROCESSES, WHICH AT THAT TIME
ASSOCIATED A GREATER TECHNICAL RISK TO THE EUROCHEMIC
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PROCESS. IF THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM HAD PROCEEDED
BY EARLY L976, THE U.S. PROCESS WOULD HAVE BEEN
SELECTED.

3. THE LOTES PROCESS WHICH IS NOW PROPOSED AS THE
SOLIDIFICATION ROUTE FOR THE LARGEST VOLUME OF WASTE,
HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF CONTINUED INVESTIGATION AT

THE EUROCHEMIC LABORATORY IN BELGIUM (ALTHOUGH REPROCESSING ACTIVITIES HAVE CEASED, R&D IS STILL CONDUCTED BY A STAFF OF ABOUT 20). FAVORABLE RESULTS CAUSED THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE TO RECONSIDER ITS ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION. HOWEVER, THE COMMITTEE'S INTERPRETATION OF RECENT U.S. RESULTS INDICATING POTENTIAL DIFFICULTIES IN RECOVERY OF CALCINED FLUIDIZED BED MATERIAL WAS ALSO IMPORTANT IN THE FINAL DECISION TO CHANGE TO THE EUROPEAN PROCESS. IN ANY EVENT, IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE PAMELLA PROCESS DEVELOPED IN COLLABORATION WITH GELSENBERG AG CAN BE ADOPTED TO TREAT ALL THE WASTE IF DIFFICULTY IS ENCOUNTERED WITH THE LOTES PROCESS.

4. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM WILL NOT BE BASICALLY ALTERED BY THE CHANGE IN THE SOLIDIFICATION PROCESS SINCE THE PRINCIPAL AIM OF THE INTERNATIONAL R & D PROGRAM WAS THE DEVELOPMENT AND DEMONSTRATION OF THE TECHNOLOGY FOR CONDITIONING OF HIGH LEVEL WASTES BY EMBEDDING THE SOLID PRODUCTS INTO METAL MATRICES. NO SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE IS EXPECTED IN THE REVISED COST ESTIMATE WHICH IS CURRENTLY BEING PREPARED.

5. ALL EUROCHEMIC COUNTRIES SUPPORT THE REORIENTATION. THE EEC IS ALSO IN FAVOR OF THE NEW APPROACH AND CONTINUES TO PRESS FOR EARLY ADOPTION OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM. ONLY THE POSITIONS OF JAPAN AND THE U.S. ARE CURRENTLY UNKNOWN.

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 12-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
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